# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-89-001* *3 January 1989*

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## 17 January Middle East and South Asia Review

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### Israel

**Territories Violence**—Nine Palestinians died 13-16 January as a result of wounds sustained in clashes with the IDF, according to Israeli radio and television reports. Most of the victims were teenagers. Over 40 others were wounded in various disturbances during the same period and the IDF imposed curfews on refugee camps throughout the Gaza Strip.

Commenting on the continuing cycle of violence, Jerusalem television noted that the number of dead and wounded has risen in the wake of the use of plastic bullets and a new type of rubber bullet.

**London Bomb Attempt**—A package containing explosives arrived at the Israeli Embassy in London 16 January, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the explosives were safely detonated.

**Reaction to UK-PLO Talks**—A meeting between British Foreign Office Minister of State William Waldegrave and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat caused "disappointment" in Israel, the Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement carried by Jerusalem radio.

Israel's ambassador in London "sharply criticized" Waldegrave for the meeting and for his "outspoken advice" to Israel warning of the consequences of refusing to confer with the PLO, the radio noted. The ambassador claimed that nothing has really changed within the PLO beneath the veneer of its "charm offensive."

Reporting on Waldegrave's remarks after the 13 January meeting with 'Arafat, the radio noted his contention that since the current Israeli prime minister was himself at one time involved in terrorism, it is "historically illogical" for Israel to refuse to talk with the PLO on account of its terrorist record.

**Chemical Weapons Issue**—In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio 17 January, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned Arab states that whoever dares to use chemical weapons (CW) against Israel "will be clobbered 100 times, if not more."

Israel will not tolerate even thinking about the use of such weapons against it, he added. In this regard, Rabin stressed that Israel considers Libya to be one of its "most dangerous potential enemies."

The radio also broadcast Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' view that the involvement of German companies in supplying equipment for Libya's CW plant is "abhorrent" to Israel.

**Satellite**—Ofeq-1, Israel's first satellite, reentered the earth's atmosphere and burned up 14 January following 4 months in orbit during which "all its systems operated perfectly," Jerusalem television reported.

### PLO Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat began a 2-day visit to Finland 16 January, Helsinki radio reported, noting that his talks with Finnish leaders were held in an "extremely friendly" atmosphere.

Following 'Arafat's earlier meeting with British official William Waldegrave, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio viewed as "extremely important" Waldegrave's warning that Israel will find itself isolated if it does not seize current opportunities for peace.

The European stand is entering a "new phase of understanding," the radio asserted, and Israel is left with "no further margin for maneuvering."

The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis over the weekend and decided to postpone discussion on the formation of a provisional Palestinian government until mid-February, INA noted.

In Cairo, Arab diplomatic sources cited by MENA predicted that 'Arafat will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Riyadh "soon" in a move aimed at eliminating differences between the PLO and Syria.

### Comment on Pan Am Crash

A former Mosad officer told a Scottish newspaper that Abu Ibrahim's "May 15" organization was responsible for the Pan Am crash at Lockerbie, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

He said this is the only Palestinian group with the expertise to carry out such attacks, contending that Abu Ibrahim spent 5 years perfecting the device which exploded over Lockerbie. The group has only up to 30 operatives and is based in Baghdad, the Israeli stated.

In another development, the clandestine Al-Quds radio broadcast a magazine interview with PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril in which he denied any involvement in the Pan Am crash and advised the U.S. Administration against carrying out any "reckless action" against his organization.

Regarding the recent arrest in the FRG of a PFLP-GC member found in possession of explosives and a barometric detonator, Jibril claimed that the man had been tasked with pursuing Mosad agents and had been "expressly instructed to refrain from any act that could put civilian lives at risk."

# Daily Report
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## 25 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2501140589 [Editorial Report]

### Lebanon

**Amal-Hizballah Cease-Fire**—The talks in Damascus under Syrian and Iranian auspices concluded 25 January with an agreement to end the fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Damascus radio announced.

The initial agreement provides for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and an end to media campaigns between the two sides. This will be followed by efforts to reach a comprehensive reconciliation agreement to regulate relations between Amal and Hizballah.

IRNA noted that Amal and Hizballah leaders signed the agreement after 62 hours of talks during which they never met face to face. The agency linked the accord with the "ceaseless mediation efforts" of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Hizballah representative Husayn al-Musawi told journalists that the agreement came after a "breakthrough" was achieved during talks between Velayati and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

**Attack on SLA**—Two South Lebanese Army (SLA) soldiers were killed and three wounded by a landmine explosion near the southern village of Al-Qantarah 24 January, Jerusalem radio reported. The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement carried by Voice of National Resistance radio.

The SLA subsequently expelled 37 suspected supporters of hostile groups from the Israeli "security zone," the Voice of Lebanon noted.

**Tripoli Killings**—A group opposed to the Syrian presence announced that it has executed three Syrian soldiers who were kidnapped in Tripoli 21 January, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A spokesman for the "Tripoli Martyrs Battalion" said the executions were in reprisal for the Syrian refusal to release an Islamic Unification Movement official.

### PLO Affairs

Responding to President Bush's call for the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, a PLO official cited by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio stressed that the Palestinian people alone have the right to decide the form of the future relationship between a Palestinian state and the "Arab brothers."

The radio also reported that the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations has rejected a U.S. proposal calling for an end to the "uprising."

In a lengthy interview with Beirut's AL-SAFIR, PFLP leader George Habash criticized PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's policies of "gratuitous concessions," contending that 'Arafat's current policies are a "flagrant violation" of PNC resolutions.

He viewed the possible establishment of a Palestinian state on "part of the Palestinian territories" as a gain on which to base "continued struggle," stressing that the Palestinians cannot coexist with "the Zionist entity." Since the Palestinians "cannot destroy this entity with a finishing blow," Habash said, "responsible leaders must think of tactical battles" that can eventually lead to their "strategic goal."

### Israel

The Arabs have not budged from their true intention, which is "to throw the Jews into the sea," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. All their proposals are nothing but a disguise concealing this desire, he maintained.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the IDF is considering prohibiting rioters from working in Israel, IDF radio noted. Eight inhabitants of a Gaza Strip refugee camp were injured in further rioting, the radio disclosed.

### Egypt

**Internal Affairs**—Twelve people were arrested following the 23 January incident at the Lawyers Association headquarters, MENA reported. The Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation of the wounding of a passerby, arson, and other charges, the agency added.

MENA also noted that the association's council is to hold elections to the post of chairman and to the membership of the council.

One man was killed and many others injured in riots in Al-Minya 19 January, AL-WAFD reported. Members of Islamic groups were protesting the interior minister's decision to close a local mosque.

**Foreign Affairs**—Egypt will not accept a partnership arrangement in Tabah's Sonesta Hotel but will compensate Israel for the hotel after an assessment has been made, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stated according to MENA.

Regarding Egyptian POW's in Iran, Al-Majid said the estimated number is between 10,000 and 15,000, MENA noted. AL-WAFD reported 21 January that Egypt has "rejected" Iran's preconditions for the return of the prisoners and has appealed to the International Red Cross to facilitate their return.

# Daily Report
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## 31 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD3101135889 [Editorial Report]

### Afghanistan

**Soviet Withdrawal, Aid**—Pakistan has information that Soviet troops will leave Kabul by 4 February, according to a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Islamabad radio. Likewise, Western diplomats in Islamabad said the withdrawal is expected to be completed "almost 10 days ahead of schedule," AFP reported.

Yuriy Maslyukov, a CPSU Politburo candidate member and chairman of GOSPLAN, stated during a meeting in Kabul with President Najibullah that the USSR will provide additional aid aimed at improving Afghanistan's financial situation and providing Kabul and the provinces with essential goods and foodstuffs, TASS reported.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze received the Afghan ambassador to discuss "further cooperation" between the two countries following the Soviet military withdrawal, according to TASS.

**Security Situation**—The mujahidin destroyed two Afghan Government helicopters in a recent attack on Qandahar airport, Islamabad radio reported. The report added that in Herat Province 2 Afghan Army commanders and 430 militiamen have joined the mujahidin.

### Lebanon

**Amal-Hizballah Agreement**—Leaders of the Amal Movement and Hizballah signed the agreement between the two sides 30 January in the presence of the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers, SANA reported.

The agency carried the text of the accord, which stipulates that both sides must abide by the cease-fire, end media campaigns, evacuate wounded persons from the combat areas, release detainees, and withdraw from villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah to allow the local inhabitants to return.

Amal and Hizballah will form a coordination committee to organize future relations and will also set up a joint operations room in southern Lebanon to coordinate "resistance" operations against Israel, though each side will retain the right to carry out operations independently.

The agreement states that Amal is "responsible for security in the south" pending the restoration of government authority over all Lebanese territories.

As for the situation in the capital, the agreement views the security of the southern suburb as "part of Beirut's security," adding that the two sides pledge to implement their previous agreement in this regard.

Without mentioning the foreign hostages issue, the agreement says the two sides are committed not to attack UNIFIL or members of international organizations in Lebanon.

In related remarks cited by Damascus radio, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope that all hostages will be released in Lebanon, but he stressed that the Amal-Hizballah accord has nothing to do with the release of hostages.

According to IRNA, Velayati termed the accord a "blessed beginning" for uniting all Islamic and progressive forces against Israel, and he disclosed that Iran is ready to "compensate part of the damages" caused by fighting between the rival Shi'ite groups.

Amal leader Nabih Birri has accepted an invitation from Velayati to visit Tehran, according to Voice of National Resistance radio. Meanwhile, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an revealed that the persons accused of the September 1988 assassination of three Amal leaders have been handed over to Syrian forces in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Despite the agreement in Damascus, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported further exchanges of fire between Amal and Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

**Tunis Talks**—The Arab League good offices committee held separate talks with General Michel 'Awn and Salim al-Huss, heads of the rival governments in East and West Beirut, Tunis radio reported. The Kuwaiti foreign minister, the chairman of the committee, told the radio afterward that the different sides "responded well and are eager to secure stability in Lebanon."

**ICRC's Return**—The International Committee of the Red Cross announced it will resume its activities in Lebanon within 1 week, Beirut radio reported.

### Israel

**Rabin Plan**—Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed that he is willing to change his plan for the territories, according to Jerusalem radio. Instead of making elections conditional on achieving calm beforehand, he is willing to see calm prevail after an agreement is reached on the elections process. However, calm will still be needed to let the elections take place.

Rabin is "encouraged" by reactions of Palestinian notables in the territories to his election plan, Jerusalem television disclosed, adding that few of the notables rejected the plan outright. Reactions of Palestinians of all political tendencies were sounded out recently by Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, the report noted.